

The SWORD of the LORD

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

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THE RICH FOOL

By Evangelist John R. Rice
(As preached on radio KTIS, Minneapolis, Minnesota)

"And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." Luke 12:16-21.

This is called the parable of the rich fool but I want you to notice, first of all, that this was a smart man, a very admirable character. There are many things about him that make me love him. For one thing, I know so many of his counterparts. Since I grew up on a farm and ranch, I know many farm and stock men. In my early ministry I preached much of the time among the ranch people and among farmers.

He Was A Success

There were many good things about this man. First of all, he made good.

Don't let anybody think that that is against a person. The man who works hard and makes money is to be commended. I have no patience at all with this silly and wicked talk against the man who starts his own store, his own shoe-shine stand or his own little factory, then makes good and saves money. I am not against the man who makes good; I am for

him. That is the American way, and it is God's way. In the Bible the men of energy, the men who had vision and faith, the men who worked hard and saved, are commended.

Abraham was a rich man. That was to his credit. So were many other good men in the Bible. Job was a rich man. It was to his credit. So it is not against a man that he makes good. It is not against a man that he advances in the world, as Daniel did, as Joseph did and as other godly, honest, good men did because of hard work. I say, this man made good and I am for him.

I want you to notice that he raised good crops. My, a farm is wonderful if you really mean business! It can be a shabby and dreary existence. But if you really mean business, if you work at it and make good—if you grow good crops; and save things—it is fine

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3 WAYS TO HELP

Goal; 50,000 New and Renewal Subscriptions to THE SWORD by April 1

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By Editor John R. Rice

Be A Missionary

With earnest heart I am asking every reader of THE SWORD OF THE LORD to be a missionary and send this paper to someone else. THE SWORD OF THE LORD is a missionary paper. It was founded, it has been edited and published all these years with a missionary motive of getting the gospel to every creature, of making Christians into soul winners, of setting the fires of God burning in the hearts of preachers. Its results are missionary results.

I have just had laid on my desk a record showing 508 people who have written to say they were saved through THE SWORD OF THE LORD and other Sword literature. Curing the first eleven months of

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Church Honor Roll

More and more churches are putting THE SWORD OF THE LORD in the church budget and sending the paper to every family of the church.

In 1950 Rev. Robert L. Sumner wrote us how the Morningside Baptist Church, Graham, Texas, had at the annual meeting voted "unanimously and enthusiastically" to send THE SWORD OF THE LORD to every resident family on their church roll, both active and inactive. We have had very, very happy reports of the blessing of these pages of revival going into the homes of this church.

North Acres Baptist Church of Des Moines, Iowa, in sending some subscriptions two years ago, told

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100 Subscription Club

We are hereby organizing an exclusive honor club, to be composed of those who send 100 subscriptions to THE SWORD OF THE LORD during the present campaign. Our effort is to get 50,000 more new and renewal subscriptions. The renewals will not add to our total number of subscriptions. And new subscriptions must take care of any who fail to renew, as well as increasing our present large circulation. Last year we received some 42,000 new and renewal subscriptions in one special subscription campaign. This cam-

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Following Jesus

By Dr. Bob Jones, Sr., Founder Bob Jones University, Greenville, South Carolina

"And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him."—Matthew 9:9.

You will notice that this is a personal invitation given by our Lord to Matthew. But the invitation to follow Jesus has pressed its way down the years and is extended to everybody in this building tonight. Of course, we use this in a figurative sense. You cannot follow Jesus Christ literally. Sometimes people say, "What would Jesus do?" You remember that very popular book in this country which expressed that sentiment, *In His Steps*. I would not discount it. The sentiment was beautiful. The idea of the book is, "What would Jesus do under certain circumstances? What would Jesus do if He were here just as I am?"



Dr. Bob Jones, Sr.

sess Him and He possesses me, then under all circumstances in life I will do just what I ought to do. Every relationship will be right. I will be the right kind of father, the right kind of husband, the right kind of wife, the right kind of mother, the right kind of citizen, the right kind of employee, the right kind of man or woman. Every relationship will be right if I am under the control of Jesus Christ.

Down in Alabama years ago I knew a man and a woman who had been married for fifty years. The man was unusually small and a blond. His wife was extremely large and a blonde. But that man and that woman actually looked alike. I used to look into his eyes and see an expression that made me think of the eyes of his wife. I used to look into her face and see features that reminded me of the face of her husband. For fifty years this man and this woman had gone life's way together. They had spent Christmas holidays together. They had been

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Perfection, As Used In Scripture

By the late Dr. H. A. Ironside,
Long pastor, Moody Memorial Church, Chicago

It is a common custom with one-sided special pleaders to attach arbitrary meanings to certain words, and then press them as the only correct definitions. No terms have suffered more in this respect than the words "perfect" and "perfection," as found in our English version of the Scriptures.

From the first publication of the revered John Wesley's "Plain Account of Christian Perfection" to the present time, it seems to have been taken for granted that by perfection we are to understand sinlessness. Yet Mr. Wesley himself did not exactly so define it, and he seemed to fear a radical use of the doctrine that would be hurtful to souls, against which he carefully sought to guard by distinguishing angelic, Adamic, and Christian perfection. Today the average work on holiness pictures the perfect Christian as a man restored, to all intents and purposes, to the Adamic condition, save that the usages of society and the condition of men still in the natural and carnal state demand the continuance of "coats of skin!"

It will be well for us, therefore, to turn at once to Scripture and mark the use of the expressions and their connection as we have already done in regard to the word "sanctification." It is not by getting dictionary definitions or theological explanations that we learn the exact force of English words when used to translate Hebrew and Greek originals, but by observing the manner in which they are used in the Bible. For instance, in any ordinary sermon on "perfection" the attention is generally first

directed to Noah and Abraham. Of the former we read, "Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God" (Gen. 6:9). The margin gives "upright" in place of perfect, though either word would properly express the original. Noah was an upright man, perfect in his ways. That is, he was one against whose behavior no charge could be brought—until, alas, this perfect life was marred by the drunkenness so shamefully exposed by heartless Ham. Who but a biased partisan could dream of Noah's perfection implying freedom from inbred sin! Yet many have been the sermons preached and exhortations based on this statement of the ancient record, in which he has been held up as an antediluvian example of entire sanctification.

Even in ordinary conversation the word perfect is used as here. A teacher says of a pupil who has successfully passed an examination, with no errors to his charge, "He is perfect." Does he mean, "sinless"?

To Abram, Jehovah said, "I am the Almighty God; walk before Me, and be thou perfect" (Gen. 17:1). Again a glance at the margin would help to avoid a wrong conclusion. "Upright," or "sinless"

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A DAY CALLING FOR THE HIGHEST IN MAN



BIBLE QUESTIONS ANSWERED

1. Is the Church the Bride of Christ?
2. Can Christ Return Before the Gospel Is Preached in All the World?

By Evangelist John R. Rice

My dear Brother M—

I was glad to have your letter of November 7 and I will try to answer your questions.

1. QUESTION: "Does the Bible definitely say that the church is the bride of Christ?"

ANSWER: The Bible does not say in exactly so many words

"The church is the bride of Christ." However, again and again the Bible uses the relation of husband and wife as a figure of speech illustrating the relation of Christ and all the redeemed.

Ephesians 5:23-25 says, "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church; and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it."

In John 3:29, 30 John the Baptist indicated that Christ was the bridegroom and that those who were saved and who followed Christ were therefore the bride.

In Matthew 22:2 Jesus told a parable about "a certain king, which made a marriage for his son" and then follows a parable indicating the assembling of all the saved in Heaven at the marriage supper.

In Revelation 21:2, 9; 22:17 there are references to the bride.

2. QUESTION: "Does Jesus really mean that He will delay His coming until the gospel is preached unto all the world among all nations? See Matthew 24:14."

ANSWER: No, He does not mean that He will delay His com-

ing now until the gospel is preached in all the world among all nations. That passage in Matthew 24:14 refers to the tribulation time. During the tribulation time there will be a remnant of hated, despised Jews and other converts who will preach the gospel in all nations.

But it is clear from many Scriptures that now the gospel has already been preached to all the world. For example, at Pentecost, "there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven" (Acts 2:5) who heard the gospel. The faith of the Christians at Rome was "spoken of throughout the whole world" (Rom. 1:8). Again in Colossians 1:5, 6 we read of "the gospel; Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world;...." It is clear that, in the sense meant by the Scripture, the gospel has already been preached in all the world.

Again we must remember that according to the plain statements made by the Saviour, He might return at any time. He said that "we are to watch... for ye know not when the time is" (Mark 13:33). See also Mark 13:32, Matthew 25:13, and many such Scriptures. There are no prophesied events which must happen before Jesus comes. He could have come in Paul's day and Paul expected Him. We ought to expect Him also. He does not delay His coming for any other event to transpire. We are not to wait for any signs before expecting Jesus.

Thank you for your letter.

In the Saviour's name, yours,

John R. Rice



Editor's Notes

A Happy Christmas at Home

This is written on December 26, the day after Christmas. Christmas will have been gone for weeks before you read it. But I want to give God praise for a happy Christmas with my family. How sweet to be together!

The three younger girls still live at home. Joy, the baby, is fourteen, and in her first year of high school work in Wheaton College Academy. Joanna is a sophomore in Wheaton College and works part-time in the Sword office. Jessie Ruth graduated from Wheaton College last June and is THE SWORD OF THE LORD artist. Elizabeth is Mrs. Walter Handford, wife of the general manager here (Mrs. Handford looks after retail mail orders and writes advertising, etc.). Grace is Mrs. Allan MacMullen. Her husband runs the Sword Book Room and she is circulation manager of THE SWORD OF THE LORD. Mary Lloys is the wife of Rev. Charles A. Himes, pastor of the Baptist church of Teece, Kansas. She and the four children were here with us. From six years down to three weeks they are Lloys Jean, Faith Elizabeth, Charles Andrew, Jr. whom we call "Andy" and John R., the newest arrival who weighs seven pounds and ten ounces.

We were all at my home for the Christmas tree Christmas Eve night. We sang Christmas songs, we read the Scriptures, every person in the house, besides the babies, including a number of workers at the Sword of the Lord and all the family gave personal testimonies. We had a prayer for God's blessings and then gave out the gifts, unwrapped them and rejoiced together. Then Christmas dinner yesterday at my house, Christmas supper at Grace and Allan's. We are going to Walt and Elizabeth's soon. Thank God for the sweet fellowship of Christmas at home.

The Chicago Christian Business Men's Radio Program

This week I am the speaker at the Chicago Christian Business Men's Radio program. It takes about four hours out of the day by the time I go into Chicago twenty-five miles, preach on the radio, catch a train and return. But for a number of years it has been my privilege to preach in the Service Men's Center sponsored by these noble Christian businessmen of Chicago, with the program broadcast over radio WMBI, the Moody Bible Institute station. On Christmas day I took four hours going in and coming out but the train was snowbound and delayed and I missed the broadcast. Thank God I have a gospel that is sweet to my own heart to preach at Christmastime and there are thousands of hungry souls who listen.

Beautiful Snow!

We have already had as much snow in the Chicago area before Christmas as we usually have in the whole year, someone tells me. Cars have floundered in snow drifts all over the town. We have to keep shoveling to keep sidewalks and driveways open and usable. Beside the sidewalks, the snow is piled thirty inches high. Highways and trains have been disrupted. But thank God there has been little serious damage and we enjoyed the snow for Christmastime.

Christmas Gifts to the Sword of the Lord

Let me thank every one for the beautiful Christmas cards and

letters that came from all over the nation, and some from foreign countries. They have warmed my heart. A good number of gifts have come, too, especially for subscriptions to THE SWORD OF THE LORD and for the Free Literature Fund. This morning a check came for a thousand dollars for THE SWORD OF THE LORD and we will use it to send the paper to preachers and ministers at home and abroad who otherwise would not get this revival weekly. We ask in this paper for many to join in sending a hundred subscriptions. Thank God, the first one sends not a hundred, but 999 subscriptions, at the special rate! How it comforts our heart to know that others are burdened about this work. And the dear Lord will reward, I know.

One friend sent \$50 for the Free Literature Fund, and others have sent good amounts for that purpose, so that we cannot list them here. But each one will receive a personal receipt and thanks. God bless everybody who remembered to help get out the gospel as a Christmas present for the Lord Jesus and for others this year.

Burdened About Subscription Campaign

Every reader who has been long taking THE SWORD OF THE LORD will understand how burdened the editor is for the success of our new subscription campaign. For long years we have put up a fight to encourage mass evangelism, to stir the hearts of people for soul winning. Thank God evangelism is coming back! Blessed revival campaigns are in the news, and God has raised up hundreds of evangelists. I have answered the critics of evangelism. I have insisted that God is just as able and just as willing to have revivals now as ever before. I have encouraged young men and older men to go into full-time revival work. The fruit of our sowing is in evidence. Thank God for all who have helped in it. But we must go on promoting evangelism. If we can get the ear of earnest, Bible-believing, born-again preachers in this country and stir their hearts from week to week through THE SWORD OF THE LORD, America will see a greater wave of revival than it has ever seen yet, I am sure. We have a job to do and we want you to help us. Pray, and subscribe for others, and spread the soul-winning, revival message of THE SWORD OF THE LORD. Thousands and thousands more ought to read it every week.

We ought to have in America a great Christian magazine with a million circulation which makes a fight on sin. There ought to be clear teaching about a separated life. There ought to be some such magazine that shows

from time to time what is wrong with the movies and with the dance and with the bloody oaths of the lodges and the yoke with unbelievers. There ought to be some Christian magazine that will constantly bring the Bible message of holy living, without fanaticism. THE SWORD OF THE LORD is that kind of a magazine.

The fight on the whole question of the fundamentals of the faith must be made again. Is the Bible the very Word of God? Is it verbally inspired in the original documents? Was Jesus really born of a virgin, without a human father? Did Jesus rise bodily from the grave, as the Scriptures say He did? Of course these questions must be answered with a big yes. But the infidels, the modernists, the liberalists, people claiming to be Christians but denying the essentials of the Christian faith are creeping into every major denomination. They are in the Christian colleges as well as the state universities. They are in public literature everywhere. God help us to lead the preachers and the professors and lay Christians in a solid stand for the Word of God. THE SWORD OF THE LORD is needed for its clear-cut stand against modernism and against sin.

You who read THE SWORD OF THE LORD know how we stress Bible preaching, how we stress soul winning, how we call people to clean lives and earnest endeavor and believing prayer! Now help us to reach thousands of other readers with THE SWORD. Send in your subscription lists. We ought to have a big honor roll of churches sending the SWORD to every family in their church. We ought to quickly make up a list of at least a hundred people who would give a hundred subscriptions. Thousands of others ought to give ten or twenty or fifty subscriptions each.

Remember that during the special campaign until April 1 subscriptions may be sent \$2.00 for the first one-year subscription and then \$1.00 per year for additional subscriptions sent at the same time. That means that the first subscription will cost \$2.00 but ten subscriptions will cost only \$11 and a hundred subscriptions only \$101.

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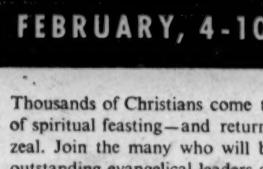
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Prayer

By T. DeWitt Talmage

Prayer a Power to Be Used Constantly

I never yet asked God to do anything but He did it, if it were for the best, and in all cases where my prayer has not been answered, I have found out afterward that it was best not to have been answered in my way. But none of us have tested the full power of prayer. It is a force very like some of the forces of nature, that were in existence but not employed.

For ages electricity was thought good for nothing but to burn barns and kill people with one fell stroke. The lightning-rod on the top of houses was the spear with which the world charged on the thunderstorm, as much as to say: "If you dare to come this way, I will hurl you into the ground."

But now electricity lightens homes and churches and cities and Christendom, and moves rail-cars; and he is a rash man who mentions anything as impossible to this natural energy. So the power of prayer was to the world rather a frightful power, if it was any power at all. But that has been changed and men begin to use it in some things. Mightier agent than any natural force yet developed will be this Gospel electricity, flashing heavenward for help, flashing earthward with divine response. God in business life. God in agricultural life. God in mechanical life. God in artistic life. God in every kind of life. Your religion for the most part is hung up so high you cannot reach it. It is hung up on the cloudy rafters of the sky where you expect to snatch it up as you finally go through for heavenly residence. Oh, have your religion within easy reach now! Religion is not for Heaven, but for this world. Once in Heaven, we will need no prayer.

Potency of Prayer

When on the sea, Captain Haldane swore at the ship's crew with an oath that wished them all in perdition, and a Scotch sailor touched his cap and said, "Captain! God hears prayers, and we would be badly off if your wish were answered."

Captain Haldane was convicted by the sailor's remark and converted, and became the means of salvation of his brother Robert, who had been an infidel; and then Robert became a minister of the Gospel and under his ministry the godless Felix Neff became the world-renowned missionary of the Cross and the worldly Merle d'Aubigne became the author of the History of the Reformation and will be the glory of the church for all ages.

Perhaps you may do as much as the Scotch sailor, who just tipped his cap and used one broken sentence by which the earth and the heavens are still resounding with potent influences.

Agassiz' Prayer

Agassiz standing amid his student explorers down in Brazil, coming across some great novelty in the rocks, taking off his hat said: "Gentlemen, let us pray; we want divine illumination; we want wisdom from the Creator to study these rocks; He made them; let us pray."

John Q. Adams' Prayer

It may be that in that hour of our departure we will be too feeble to say a long prayer. It may be in that hour we will not be able to say the "Lord's Prayer," for it has seven petitions. Perhaps we may be too feeble even to say the infant prayer our mothers taught us, which John Quincy Adams,

Important Memo--

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seventy years of age, said every night when he put his head upon his pillow:

*Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray the Lord my soul to keep.*

We may be too feeble to employ either of these familiar forms; but the prayer of Stephen is so short, is so concise, is so earnest, is so comprehensive, we surely will be able to say that: "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

Believing Prayer

You are to seek the Lord with earnest and believing prayer. God is not an autocrat or a despot seated on a throne with His arms resting on brazen lions, and a sentinel pacing up and down at the foot of the throne. God is a father seated in a bower waiting for His children to come and climb on His knee, and get His kiss and His benediction. Prayer is the cup with which we go to the "fountain of living water" and dip up refreshment for our thirsty soul. Grace does not come to the heart as we set a cask at the corner of the house to catch the rain in the shower. It is a pulley fastened to the throne of God, which we pull, bringing the blessing. I do not care what posture you take in prayer nor how large an amount of voice you use; unless you pray right inwardly there will be no response. Prayers must be believing, earnest, loving.

You are in your house some summer day and a shower comes up, and a bird, affrighted, darts into the window and wheels around the room. You seize it. You smooth its ruffled plumage. You feel its fluttering heart. You say, "Poor thing, poor thing."

Now a prayer goes out of the storm of this world into the window of God's mercy and He catches it, and He feels the fluttering pulse, and He puts it in His own bosom of affection and safety. Prayer is a warm, ardent, pulsating exercise. It is the electric battery which touched, thrills to the throne of God! It is the diving-bell in which we go down into the depths of God's mercy and bring up "pearls of great price."

Oh, how many wonderful things prayer has accomplished! In the days when the Scotch Covenanters were persecuted, and enemies were after them, one of the men among the Covenanters prayed: "O Lord, we be as dead men unless Thou shalt help us!" And instantly a Scotch mist enveloped and hid the persecuted from their persecutors—the promise literally fulfilled. "While they are yet speaking I will hear."

Faithful in Prayer

I have a word of counsel, and that is, be faithful in prayer. You might as well, business man, start out in the morning without food and expect to be strong all that day—you might as well abstain from food all the week and expect to be strong physically as to be strong without prayer. The only way to get strength into the soul is by prayer and the only difference between that Christian who is worth everything and that who is worth nothing is the fact that the latter does not pray and the other does.

You can graduate a man's progress in religion by the amount of prayer, not by the number of hours perhaps, but by the earnest supplication that he puts up to God. There is no exception to the rule. Show me a man who prays, and his strength and his power cannot be exaggerated. Just give to a man this power of prayer and you give him almost omnipotence.

Not one of us yet knows how to pray. All we have done has only been pottering and guessing and experimenting. A boy gets hold of

SWORD FAMILY ROUNDTABLE

Some Greatly-Used Christian Leaders' Comments on THE SWORD OF THE LORD



DR. BOB JONES, SR., has been in revival work for half a century, having held his first revival campaign in a brush arbor when he was fifteen years old! He has preached to more people, taken more part in revival campaigns, seen more people take Christ as Saviour than any other man living. He is founder of Bob Jones University, Greenville, S. C., and chairman of the board.



BOB JONES University

GREENVILLE SOUTH CAROLINA

October 21, 1951

Mr. John R. Rice
214 West Wesley Street
Wheaton, Illinois

Dear Brother John:

I was thinking a day or two ago about the wonderful influence for God THE SWORD OF THE LORD has been in this country for a number of years. Many of the finest evangelists that are turning us to Christ through THE SWORD OF THE LORD and your evangelical conferences.

Naturally, a paper like THE SWORD OF THE LORD that goes to thousands of individuals every week and stimulates them along spiritual lines does not make the headlines like some great organized evangelistic campaigns in a city, but there would be no campaigns in cities to make the headlines if it were not for the quiet, week-in-and-week-out influence that stirs the people along evangelistic lines. You are making the headlines in heaven; so may God bless you and help you to keep the good work going.

The greatest need of this country now is a preaching crusade. For a number of years, we have been training in our schools and seminaries executives instead of preachers. We probably have in our school the largest ministerial enrollment in the world, and we require our preacher boys to read THE SWORD OF THE LORD every week during the nine months of the school year. We do this not only because we want them to read your editorials, but because we want them to read the sermons that you carry.

What a blessing it would be if somehow or other a million people could read THE SWORD OF THE LORD every week. You are doing a great work, but how much bigger the work could be! If some of these rich men in the country would send you enough money to send THE SWORD OF THE LORD to a million new readers for a year, that would be doing a job for God that might be greater than any job that has been done in America in the last hundred years.

May the Lord keep on blessing and using you.

Sincerely yours,

Bob Jones
Founder

his father's saw and hammer and tries to make something, but it is a poor affair. The father comes and takes the same saw and hammer and builds the house and ship. In the childhood of our Christian faith we make but poor work with these weapons of prayer. But when we come to the stature of men in Christ Jesus, then under these implements, the temple of God will (Continued on page 11)

Dr. Bob Jones Says:

I have just come from WM-UU, our school radio station located on the Bob Jones University campus. My daily program is carried under the title, "Dr. Bob Jones Says." This is what I said a few moments ago, "However favorable the climate and however careful the cultivation, the flower of gratitude cannot live unless it is deeply rooted in the human heart."

I have searched my heart, and I really believe that I do have in my soul a real sense of gratitude and appreciation. All my life I have been fighting sin and the devil, and I have had many hard battles. It may have been that the winds of opposition that have blown against my life have had something to do with helping this flower of gratitude to take deeper root. When a man is compelled to follow a course where he knows he is making enemies because he will not compromise what he believes to be right, he develops a very wonderful appreciation of the friends who co-operate with him.

This statement is being dictated on Christmas Eve, and I wish to thank every one of you from the depths of my heart who have prayed for my son Bob and for me and for everybody else here at Bob Jones University. We thank all of you who have invested some of your money in our Student Loan Endowment Fund. In the

next release I will tell you what is the total amount we have on hand and outline to you the plans we have and will tell you the goal we hope to reach by the close of this school year. Now please ask God what He would have you do to help us. We are going to have to have a great deal of help if we reach the goal. You will not let us down, I know. We are counting on you. I am glad to tell you that God has been unusually good to us at Bob Jones University during this school year. We have had the finest spirit of cooperation and the sweetest Christian fellowship we have ever had on the campus. There are many wonderful stories I could tell you. God is working in a great way. We trust that 1952 will be a wonderful year for all of you, and we hope you will help make it a wonderful year for us who are endeavoring to stand true to God here at Bob Jones University and who are working so hard to try to help young people that cannot attend this institution and train for their life's work unless we can help them financially. Please invest some money in the Student Loan Endowment Fund, and—please everybody pray for us. Thank you and God bless you, every one.

BOB JONES, Founder
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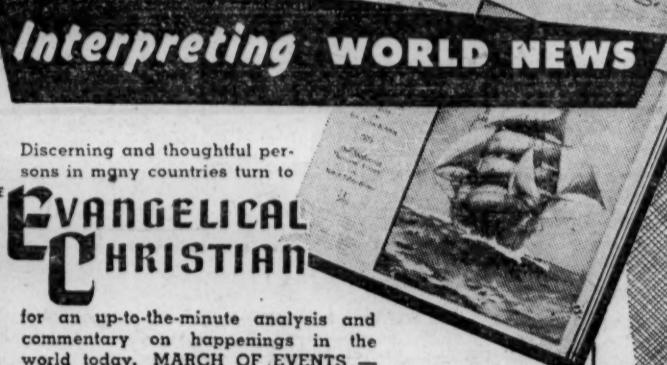
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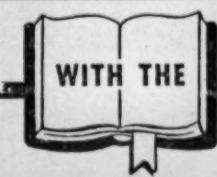
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Evangelists

REPORTS FROM AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING SOUL WINNERS

By the Editor

"This has been one of the best years of my life," writes Evangelist K. L. Sutter of Box 521, University Station, Shawnee, Oklahoma. It was spent in the field of evangelism. Brother Sutter has conducted campaigns in Texas, Oklahoma, Florida, and Missouri, and God has given blessed results, the evangelist reports. He now has a new flame-proof and water-proof tent-tabernacle, 60x90, seating 800, with all-steel chairs and cushioned bottoms, an electric organ. Any church desiring his service for a church meeting or with the tent, may contact him at the above address.

In a two-week campaign with the First Baptist Church, Banning, California, Evangelist Benny Bates reports 29 conversions, 119 rededications, and 9 joining the church by letter. Charter members

of the church said that this was the first revival the church had had in many, many years. God bless you, Brother Bates, and make the new year one of even greater blessing on your good ministry!

Evangelist Eddie Wagner and song leader, James Stoutsborough, closed a two weeks' revival effort Sunday, December 9, at the First Baptist Church, Chariton, Iowa. The pastor, Rev. William L. Peters, writes that these men did an excellent work there. He also states that of the more than forty professions of faith made during the campaign, more than half were first-time decisions. Fourteen join the church, eight of them for baptism. The pastor and people gladly commend this Sword Staff of Evangelist team for services in other churches.

Following Jesus

(Continued from page 1)

on picnics together. They had been up at the hour of midnight about the bedside of a sick child together. They had gone to the cemetery together to bury some of their children and had come back home to mingle their tears together. For fifty years their lives had been so mixed and mingled and blended until she had in her life a part of the life of her husband, and he had in his life a part of the life of his wife. If two human beings may commune until they become like each other, may not you and I commune with Jesus Christ until we, to some extent at least, become like Him?

Paul understood this when he reached mature old age. He looked from his dismal prison cell and said, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Jesus Christ, seated at the right hand of the Father, is, to some extent at least, reproducing His life in the life of every consecrated, godly Christian man or woman.

When Were You Converted?

Do you remember when you were converted? Some of you know the time and the place. Let me stop just a minute to say that you do not have to know the time and place, but you had better be dead sure there was a time and you had better be dead sure there was a place.

A man said to me not long ago, "I do not believe in instantaneous conversion." There is no other kind of conversion but instantaneous conversion. You may not know when it happened, but if you are a Christian it did happen.

You may not know just the second it took place, but if you are a Christian there was a moment in your life when you stepped out of darkness into light and out of death into life. You may have gradually come up to the line, but there was a moment when you stepped over; and if you did not step over you are still a sinner. You are dead in trespasses and sin. You do not have to know just when you were saved, but you had better be dead sure you are saved.

A great preacher said to me, "I do not know just when I was converted. Sometimes the Devil comes to me and says, 'You cannot tell when it happened.' And I say to him, 'Well, then, I will claim Him right now as my Saviour!'" Some of us remember the time and the place. With some of us it is the memory of a church altar in the old home town. With some of us it is the memory of what we call the "mourners' bench," in some church down South. With some of us it is the memory of the old family altar where our fathers led in prayer. With some of us there may be the memory of the old barnyard back at the old country home. With some of us there may be the mem-

Do You Keep Your Dates with God?

Now there they were—these men going along at the hour of prayer on their way to a prayer meeting. Say, they had kept a date with God. Do you keep your dates with God? You have a date with Him to read your Bible every day. Do you keep it? You have a date with Him to meet Him in prayer in some place of fellowship. Do you meet Him? At prayer meeting every week you have a date with God. Have you been keeping it?

The hour of prayer had come and Peter and John had started to the temple to pray. They said, "We have a date with God; it is time to go." They got to the gate of the temple and found a poor, crippled man who had never walked. He lifted his trembling hand and asked them for money. They said, "We do not have any money, but we have something better than money. We will fix you up so you can make some money." That is the best charity in the world. One of them reached out his hand, and the poor cripple got hold of it. He got on his feet and found he could stand alone. Then he went on into the temple, leaping and bounding and praising God. Are you surprised? Suppose you had never walked in your

(Continued on page 5)

"With all my Heart . . ."

By Hal Malehorn
Student Assistant to the Editor

"With All My Heart:" that was the recurring theme of the 'thank you' letters written by a few of the 953 Japanese pastors receiving *The Sword of the Lord*. They were thanking us for sending them "America's Foremost Revival Weekly." But, actually, they were not thanking us at all. Rather, they were thanking You who have so generously and so prayerfully made these gift subscriptions possible.

But to review the story a bit: Last spring Dr. Rice promised, through missionary representative Rev. Timothy Pietsch, to send *THE SWORD OF THE LORD* to every pastor in Japan requesting it. Thus, any native pastor or evangelist who received a letter from Rev. Pietsch telling him that the *SWORD* was available free of charge, could have it by agreeing to read it faithfully.

Nine hundred and fifty-three pastors, evangelists, and Christian workers requested the *SWORD*, and their names were placed on the subscription lists for one year. Scores of *SWORD* readers in America and abroad rallied wonderfully behind this great campaign, and helped pay for their subscriptions by sending in gifts to the Ministers' and Missionaries' Fund.

During recent months we have received literally dozens of letters of thanks from grateful gospel ministers in Japan. Some of these letters were in ink; some were typed. And while most of them were in rather broken English, a few were beautifully expressed in precise language; and even one was penned in Japanese! We want to share some of these precious letters with you to help you understand first hand how thankful these men of God are. We want you to see what a great work the *SWORD* is doing in Japan; we want you to realize as never before the great task and the challenge that lies ahead.

From Tokyo we received these words of thanks:

"A June 22 issue of *THE SWORD OF THE LORD* came to me this morning. Thank you very much. And I found in it an article entitled 'Over 1,000 Native Japanese Pastors Take *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*', which deeply touched my heart. Reading it, I realized more and more you Americans' kindness. I understood in order to send me the paper without money, someone must have paid. I thank you . . . with all my heart."—Minoru Tsukamoto.

Other letters from Tokyo said: "Thank you very much for your kind presents of *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*. Now I am reading them with much interest and prayer."—Keisen Mori.

"Thank you very much that you send to me often *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*. I am reading it with big interest every time, and it benefits me very, very much."—Peter Wakuda.

"Many thanks for sending me every number of your magazine, *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*. I am very much interested in them. May the blessing of the Lord be upon you and your work."—Zen Ichi Hidaka.

Several post cards said:

"It is my great joy to express my thanks for receiving every copy of *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*. Appreciate very much their sending the literature free of charge, and I find that it contains much that is a blessing and a help in my working for Christ."—Naomichi Kadoya.

"Thank you very much for your good evangelical papers. For me it is great help for every Sunday's pulpit. We are much encouraged by your papers."—Takeo Yoshino.

"I thank you for your gifts *THE SWORD OF THE LORD* which you send me every number. I read every number of your paper in enjoyment. I am a Christian since 1901."—H. Watanabe.

"I deeply appreciate all the copies of *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*. They inspire, strengthen, and burn up my heart. I read every line in them. This last day only needs such strong appeals which your paper brings up without fear."—M. G. Nagasawa.

"I thank you for your kindness because I am verily comforted by this paper."—Keisuke Nomura.

come to the front, and on the other side, communism has rapidly gained power. Our help of mind is being moved up and down in proportion to the approach of the storm. I pray that such a paper may give the light of the Spirit for the blind-minded and salvation for the miserable."—Tetsuroh Soga.

Other Christians responded:

"I am very glad for your love gift weekly, *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*. I have read it with gladness and give thanks to the Lord. Many messages have brought to me great spiritual blessings and new strength to my soul. Thank you very much. . . ."—Kojo Okuda.

"Thank you very much for sending me *THE SWORD OF THE LORD* every week. It is very useful for me to read the articles and the sermons. It is true that I wanted this more than anything else. I don't know how to express how thankful I am for your kindness. All of us are Christians and our family holds services every morning."—Masaharu Hayashi.

"I thank you so much for your kindness in sending me *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*. I have received many graces of the Lord from it when I read it every time. But as there are a lot of people who can't have the chance to hear the Lord's gospel, I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart."—Shigenobu Kaijuchi.

Letters of praise and gratitude came not only from preachers and Christian workers, but from housewives and schoolboys as well; the influence of the *SWORD* spreads everywhere and reaches all ages for Christ. One minister had been saved only 18 months when he wrote; another 45 years; and still

(Continued on page 10)



Wheaton College, like many of its contemporaries and predecessors, was founded "For Christ"—designed to be Christian in purpose and practice.

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has made such deep inroads into American society that religious factors in education are very often ridiculed or ignored.

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Charge to

Following Jesus

(Continued from page 4)

life. Suppose you had been sitting at the gateway of this building tonight, a poor helpless cripple. Suppose other people had been walking by and you could not walk. Then suppose somebody helped you get on your feet. Suppose somebody said, "Now you can walk." Don't you think you would have come into this building leaping and bounding and praising God?

Some of us remember when we made our first step heavenward. One day Jesus passed. His brow was pierced with many a thorn. He came by. We looked up at Him as He said, "Wouldn't you like to walk?"

We said, "We can't walk. Every time we get up we fall down. We are poor, crippled people."

He said, "I will fix you so you can walk." He reached out His nail-pierced hand.

I got hold of that hand one day. That hand that made all worlds gripped my hand. He pulled me to my feet. Eternal life and victory swept through my soul, and I made my first step toward Heaven. I did not shout. You may think I am excitable, but my pulse just beat sixty times a minute. I am very intense but not very excitable. I have never shouted in my life, but I wonder how a fellow could be a Christian and not shout. I have thought of it a thousand times. To stop and think what it means to walk the shining road with the Son of God to a cloudless sky is enough to make men shout!

Men shout over everything else. In this Arena men have shouted. Games have been held here when men went wild with excitement. A man can make a safe run home on a baseball diamond and the crowd shouts over the victory, and nothing is said about it. On the street corner is a group of men. One of them tells a joke and they mingle their shouts of laughter, and there is nothing said about it. Some folks are in the country at a picnic. It is a day of rest and pleasure. Young folks stroll down through the forest. One of them plucks a beautiful flower near a rippling stream and sends up a shout of laughter. Nothing is said

about it. A little child looks down the street and sees his daddy coming. He claps his hands with glee and shouts and says, "Daddy is coming!" And there is nothing said about it.

But a wayward, ruined sinner with his back on Heaven and his face toward Hell, groping his way through the darkness of time to eternal night, feels about him in the gloom until he gets hold of the hand of Jesus. When he feels that touch he says, "Hallelujah! Glory to God!"

And somebody says, "Don't get excited, brother!"

We applaud men when they come home, scarred from battle. We applaud men when they are elected to office. We applaud men when they win athletic contests. But the angels applaud men when they come to God. Over the battlements of Heaven right now, the angels look down on this Arena. They say, "Yonder is a sinner. Don't you hope he will come to Jesus? See that boy back yonder? His mother has been praying for him. That other fellow back there has a mighty good Christian wife. That girl over there has a good sweet Christian mother. Wouldn't it be wonderful if she should come?" They listen over the battlements to the preacher. Then after a while the invitation is given, and some sinner starts down the aisle. The angels burst out saying, "Give him a hand! Give him a hand!" They lean over the battlements of the sky and applaud. It is wonderful to be a Christian. It is wonderful to keep step with Jesus Christ up this shining road.

Miraculous Cure

We read in the Bible about a woman who had a disease of the blood. She had tried all the doctors. She had been to the homeopaths, the allopaths, the osteopaths, the chiropractors and all the rest of them. I imagine she spent her time telling about her doctors and her operations. She had tried all the doctors and had about given up. But one day somebody said, "There is one Doctor who can make you well if you can ever get in touch with Him. I have seen Him unstoppably

(Continued from page 4)

The strange things in nature, which surround us daily and which we seldom notice, are of the greatest interest, and reveal the wonderful knowledge and wisdom of a personal God.

The mother opossum carries her babies on her back. There is very little hair on her body, and therefore the babies would have nothing to hold on to if they were on her back. God has made provision for this situation by teaching the mother to curl her long, stiff tail up over her back to her head. The babies jump up on each side of her back and curl their tails around her tail. In this way there will be four or five of the babies, hanging securely on each side of the mother's body. Those on one side

ears and make a man hear. I saw Him open blind eyes and make a man see. That Doctor chased leprosy away with His touch. That Doctor can cure the palsied. There are no hopeless cases when He is around. He can actually raise the dead. When He goes around dead folks get up out of their coffins!"

The woman said, "If He ever comes to my town I believe I will try Him."

One day somebody said to her, "Have you heard the latest? The Doctor is in town!"

She said, "Is He really here?"

"Yes, He is here."

"I believe I will see if I can get in touch with Him," she said.

(Continued on page 8)

counterbalance the weight of those on the other side. Who taught the opossum this trick? Is there a school in which opossums are trained? Did some great atheist or infidel suggest this method of transportation to the opossum family and teach them to do it?

The lark is perhaps the most beautiful of all singing birds. The bird itself is not so attractive but its song baffles description. Many poems have been composed about the entrancing strains that emanate from this little throat. Many stories have been told of its wonderful song. In all of these poetic efforts, however, nothing is said about the feet of the lark. No one would ever sing about the lark's feet. They are ugly and quite out of proportion in size. The toes are unusually long and are covered with rough, unsightly growths. Did God make a mistake when He gave the lark her beautiful voice so exquisitely rich and yet gave her such unsightly feet? No, God always doeth all things well. The lark does not build a nest, but lays her two eggs on the ground in some small depression, perhaps at the edge of the field or of a pasture. If any danger should arise whereby her eggs might be destroyed, she picks up those two eggs in her two feet and flies away with them, to deposit them in a place that would be more safe from intruders. Her toes are extra long so they can enclose the egg without crushing it, and are made horny and rough so the egg will not slip out and fall. The God who thus cares for the little lark cares more deeply for you. Why not trust Him with your problems?

The peculiar gait of the elephant has no doubt attracted your attention, as it swung along the street in the circus parade. It seemed so cumbersome and awkward in its movements, and yet it may be that you did not discover the reason. The elephant, as you know, has the largest and the heaviest body of any living animal. Other animals are able to rise from the ground on two legs. The cow whose hind legs bend backward, lifts its body first on its hind legs, and then completes its rising motion by the front legs. The horse whose hind legs also bend backward, reverses the operation. It rises first on its front legs and then completes the job by lifting the remainder of its body with the hind legs. Why do these two animals not rise from the ground in the same way? What light does the hypothesis of Darwinian evolution shed on this peculiar characteristic?

The hind legs of the elephant are quite unlike the hind legs of other quadrupeds in that they bend forward just like the front legs. The wise provision of God was rendered necessary because of the great weight of the body. The elephant could not lift the tremendous weight on two legs alone. It must use all four of its legs to lift so many pounds to an upright position. The God who fitted the elephant to carry its burden is able to fit you to carry yours. Will you let Him?

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Migratory birds change their habitat with the seasons. In the

autumn the birds from the North fly to the warm sunny South. In the spring these same birds return to their northern feeding grounds to remain for the summer season. It must be noted with much interest that myriads of fish in the northern waters of the ocean swim to the southern seas and the warmer habitat at the very same time that the birds begin to fly to the southern clime. How can the birds and the fish prognosticate? How do they know what is coming in the next few weeks? To what schoolroom did they go in order to learn geography? They have no navigation instruments either for air or for water, yet they will return to the very location from which they left. The God Who made them, the Lord Who endowed them with instinct, a living personal God Who is wonderfully working. He only can perform such a miracle. Let Him give you His new nature through saving faith in Jesus Christ His Son.

The seawater is filled with salt. Many of the fish which we eat are taken from this salt water. Have you ever noticed that none of these fish are salty? All fish taken from the ocean must be salted at the table, or at the cannery, before the meat is tasty and fit to eat. Why is it that a fish can live all its life in salt water and yet none of the salt gets into it? That is just another touch of God's handiwork. The Christian is reminded by this incident that though we live in the world, we are not of the world, and the world should not be in us. We may live many years in the very midst of the world with its pleasures, its attractions, its allurements, and yet be wholly separated unto God.

Do you know who teaches the bird to build a nest? The baby birds were not around when mother built the nest in which they were hatched. I have never seen baby birds receiving instructions on nest building. I do not know of any college professor who specializes in teaching birds to build nests. I did observe one day a sparrow trying to begin the construction of a nest under the eaves of the house, near my window. The wind was blowing that day in fitful gusts. As fast as she would bring a bit of yarn, or a piece of grass up to the beam, the wind would blow it away. The little bird was not to be whipped in this manner, and I saw her do an unusual thing. She brought a bit of grass up to its place and stood on it as the gust of wind blew. Then she quickly darted down for another piece and thus she performed between the gusts of wind, until the nest was formed and anchored. She learned this trick from the God who doeth all things well.

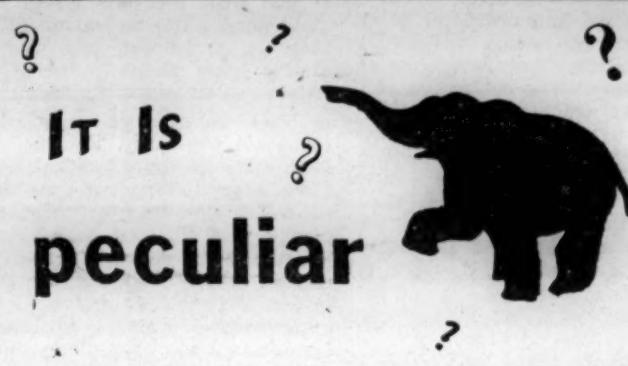
A bird which has been hatched in an incubator and which has never seen a nest nor another bird will build a perfectly good nest of the sort which is built by its kind, and will lay her unfertilized eggs in that nest. No wonder Job's pride was humbled, when God said to him, "Doth the hawk fly by thy wisdom?" (Job 39:26), and "Doth the eagle mount up at thy command, and make her nest on high?" (Job 39:27).

God performs an engineering feat which man would like very much indeed to understand. A limb nine inches in diameter will grow straight out from a tree thirty-two inches in diameter, projecting fifty feet, and weighing a thousand pounds. Several men could sit on this limb adding another thousand pounds of weight. The fibres of this limb do not penetrate the tree more than half its diameter, which would be sixteen inches. Do you know of any engineer who could devise, or any material which could stand the strain if man should seek to duplicate this? If this secret could be discovered a bridge could be thrown across the Hudson River by anchoring only to one side. "How marvelous are thy works, O God."

(The above is one of thirty-three chapters in the book, STRANGE SHORT STORIES BY THE DOCTOR, 123 pages, paper bound, which may be purchased for 75¢ from Sword of the Lord Publishers, Wheaton, Illinois.)

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By Dr. Walter L. Wilson



The strange things in nature, which surround us daily and which we seldom notice, are of the greatest interest, and reveal the wonderful knowledge and wisdom of a personal God.

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ears and make a man hear. I saw Him open blind eyes and make a man see. That Doctor chased leprosy away with His touch. That Doctor can cure the palsied. There are no hopeless cases when He is around. He can actually raise the dead. When He goes around dead folks get up out of their coffins!"

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"Yes, He is here."

"I believe I will see if I can get in touch with Him," she said.

(Continued on page 8)

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Perfection, as Used in Scripture

(Continued from page 1)

cere," are given as alternative readings. Yet the zealous advocate of a second work will overlook or ignore this altogether, and argue that God would not tell justified Abram to be perfect if He did not mean that there was for him a deeper work which He was ready to perform in him, whereby all carnality would be destroyed and the patriarch would become perfect as to his inward state. But there is no such thought in the passage. Abram was called to walk before God in sincerity of heart and singleness of purpose. This was, to be "perfect."

The next proof-text generally referred to comes after the lapse of many centuries, and is part of our Lord's sermon on the mount: "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Matt. 5:48). These are serious words indeed, and we do well not to pass them lightly by.

At the outset we may observe that if to be perfect here means to be absolutely like God, then no Christian has ever yet attained to the state prescribed. Only one mentally unbalanced could pretend to such perfection as this. But a careful consideration of the preceding instruction will make clear at once what is meant. The Lord had been proclaiming the law of the kingdom, the compelling power of grace. He bids His disciples love their enemies and do good to their accusers and persecutors, that in this they may manifestly be children of their Father in Heaven, whose loving favor is shown to just and unjust alike. He does not withhold the blessings of sunshine and rain from the evil-living, or hateful, but shows mercy to all. We are called to be morally like Him. To love only our friends and well-wishers is to be on a level with any wicked man. To be kind to brethren only is to be clannish like the publicans. But to show grace and act in love toward all is to be perfect, or balanced, like the Creator Himself. Surely all Christians strive for this perfection—but who dare aver that he has attained to it, so that he is never unjust or partial in his dealings with others?

Perfection in its ultimate sense we all come short of. "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect," writes the Apostle Paul, "but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:12-14). Could disclaimer of perfection, as to experience and attainment in grace, be stronger or more distinct than this? Whatever others may fancy they have reached to, Paul at least was not one of the perfectionists.

Yet in the very next verse he uses another word which is rendered "perfect" in our English version; and he says, "Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded." Is there contradiction, or inconsistency, here? No. The error is in the mind of him who would so think. "Perfect" in verse 15 has the sense of "full grown," and refers to those who have passed out of the period of spiritual childhood. They are such as have become intelligent in divine things; and one way in which they manifest that intelligence is by confessing with Paul that they are not yet perfect as regards experience.

Christ Jesus has apprehended, or laid hold of, us with a view to our entire conformity to His own blessed image. We are predestinated to this, as Romans 8:29 tells us. With this before us, we press on, forgetting the things of the past, and reaching forth to this glorious consummation. Then, and then only, we shall have come to Christian perfection.

"We know that when he shall appear, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is" (I John 3:2).

In Hebrews 6:1 we read again of perfection; and in this instance one can readily understand how a person uninstructed as to the true scope and character of that epistle might easily misapply the exhortation, "Let us go on unto perfection." The contention of the holiness teacher as to this is generally as follows: These words are clearly addressed to believers. The Hebrews who are contemplated had already been turned to God in conversion. They were undoubtedly justified. [One might add, "and sanctified too" (!); but this is lost sight of; and little wonder, for it would not agree with the theory.] Therefore if such persons are urged to "go on unto perfection," perfection must be a second work of grace, to which the Lord is leading all the "merely justified."

Now none could successfully deny the premise thus stated; but granting it to be sound and unassailable, the conclusion drawn by no means necessarily follows.

That the Hebrew Christians were exhorted to press on to something they had not yet reached is clear. But that this was identical with the so-called "second blessing" is not at all clear.

The truth is that the Greek word "perfection" in this instance is only another form of the word translated "perfect" in Philippians 3:15, which we have already examined and seen to be synonymous with full-grown. "Let us go on to full growth" would be a true and just rendering, and is not at all ambiguous. It implies a proper spiritual development, such as should be before all young believers, but which it was needful to press upon these Hebrews, as they were dwarfed or stunted Christians, because of not having cut loose from Judaism with its withering, blighting influence.

Paul had already reproved them for this in the previous chapter. Note his words: "Ye are dull of hearing. For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God: and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age [or those who are perfect], even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil" (Heb. 5:11-14).

We learn from Acts 21 the reason why these Hebrew believers had become stunted in spirituality and knowledge. James, himself an apostle, together with all the elders of the church in Jerusalem, met together to receive Paul and his companions upon their returning thither; and after hearing of what God had wrought among the Gentiles, we are told "they glorified the Lord, and said unto him, Thou seest, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are which believe, and they are all zealous of the law" (ver. 20): and upon this they base an appeal for Paul to fall in with certain Jewish rites, in order that he may not be an object of suspicion. Anxious to propitiate their own nation, the great apostle agrees, and is only prevented by divine Providence from an act which would have been clearly contrary to the 9th and 10th chapters of the Hebrew epistle. Think what it would have meant for him who wrote, "Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin," if he had himself assisted in offering the sacrifices prescribed in the case of a Nazarite who had fulfilled his vow! (Read Num. 6:13-21, and compare with the whole account in Acts 21:23-26.) This failure God mercifully prevented, though at the cost of His dear servant's liberty. Afterward the venerable apostle, by divine inspiration, wrote the epistle to the Hebrews,* to deliver those Jewish

* I know some question Paul's authorship of Hebrews, but in my judgment Peter settles that in his second letter to the Jewish believers. See 2 Peter 3:15, 16.

Testimony Of H. A. Ironside

We wish everyone would read and ponder this testimony of the late H. A. Ironside who was for many years pastor of the Moody Memorial church in Chicago:

"Let me give you a word of personal testimony. For the first six years of my Christian life I was largely dependent upon what I called the Spirit's guidance. I knew very little of the guidance of the Word. When perplexed, I would say, 'I will ask the Lord what His will is,' and as I felt impressed I would act. But I found as I read my Bible that I was often going contrary to the written Word. I shall never forget the night I knelt before God, and opened my Bible to a passage of Scripture on the subject of baptism, which I had been avoiding for years. I would say, 'I am going to ask the Lord about it,' and then I thought I had an inward feeling that baptism of the Holy Spirit was all I needed, and every time I read a scripture and saw baptism before me I dodged it. I had a lot of dodging to do, for there were a great many scriptures that had to do with that subject, but finally before the open Word I said, 'Blessed God, by Thy grace from today on I will never try to dodge one thing that is written in Thy word for Thy people in this age. If Thou wilt make it clear to me, by Thy grace I will walk in obedience to it,' and from that time I had blessings I had never experienced before. Two weeks after that I went down to the sea-side and was buried with Him in baptism, and a week later I sat at the Table of the Lord. I had said, 'All you need is to feed mentally upon the body and blood of Christ, you do not need the outward symbols.' One by one many things came before me that I had tried to make myself believe were all right, but I found they were contrary to His Word. I have sought conscientiously now for many years to yield obedience when God speaks. I do not always understand why He tells me to do certain things, but it is not necessary for me to understand, the thing for me is to obey, to do what God has asked me to do, and it is as we obey the Word that we are kept clean. Christ loved the Church, and gave Himself for it; that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word" (Eph. 5:25, 26).

And so, as we judge ourselves, as we obey the Word and confess our failures, we come out from under the judgment of the Lord."—In "Addresses on First Corinthians."

Christians from the bondage of the law and their subjection to the ordinances of the first covenant.

"Therefore," he says, in chapter 6, "leaving the word of the beginning of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward

* The A. V. is misleading here. They were not to leave any divine principles, but the word of the beginning; that is, all teaching that was not connected with Christ risen and glorified!

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LITTLE FINGERS

"If we knew the little fingers
Pressed against the window pane,
Would be cold and stiff tomorrow,
Never trouble us again,—
Would the bright eyes of our darling
Catch the frown upon our brow?
Would the prints of rosy fingers
Vex us then, as they do now?"

"Ah! those little ice cold fingers—
How they point our memories back
To the hasty words and actions
Strewn along our backward track!
How those little hands remind us,
As in snowy grace they lie,
Not to scatter thorns, but roses,
For our reaping by and by."

—R. T. Cross

God, of the doctrine of baptisms (or washings), and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this will we do if God permit" (vers. 1-3).

This the apostle does in the balance of the epistle, as he unfolds the varied lines of truth connected with Christ's priesthood, the new covenant, the one sacrifice, the walk of faith, and the Lord's discipline. This vast circle of the truth of Christianity is the perfection to which they, and we, are called to go on to. He who comprehends and enjoys in his soul the teaching of Hebrews—chapters 7 to 13—is a perfect Christian, in the apostle's sense. He is now full-grown, and able to partake of strong meat, in place of being only fit to feed upon milk. Into that glorious outline of the faith of God's elect I dare not attempt to go here, for to do so would but divert attention from the subject in hand.*

It is only by reverent and continual reading of the Scriptures that any can thus become perfect. The exhortation to Timothy is of all importance: "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15). In the same letter Paul writes: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (chap. 3:16, 17). This is no mystical, inward perfection, but that well-rounded knowledge of the mind of God which His word alone can give. He who does not neglect the ap-

pointed means will be enabled to enjoy the answer to the prayer with which Hebrews closes: "Now the God of peace... make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen" (Heb. 13:20, 21).

One other passage we must examine before dismissing our brief study of perfection. It is James 3:1, 2: "My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation. For in many things we offend all. If any man offend

(Continued on page 8)



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Following Jesus

(Continued from page 5)

I imagine she told her friends that she wanted to go. They said, "You had better stay away from all that excitement down there in that Arena. I would not have anything to do with it!"

She said, "Well, I am in a bad fix anyhow. It can't be much worse with me than it is, and I think I will try it." I think she got up and began to dress. In my imagination I can see her now. I think she might have been nervous, trembly and maybe a little irritable and sensitive. After a while she said, "Good-by, children. I am going downtown and see if I can do anything for myself."

She started down the street, stopping once in a while to lean on her cane. A little later she saw a great crowd. She said, "He is in that crowd somewhere. I don't know how I will ever get to Him, but I am going to try!" And, listen! Nobody ever wanted to get to Jesus but that there was a way to Him.

You may have to sail bloody seas and scale the mountains and climb over walls and go through bayonets and fields sown with dragon's teeth; but if you want to get to Him you can.

I see her as she approached the crowd and began to press her way through. One person and then another let her by. I think I see her as she put her trembling hand on the shoulder of an old fellow and said, "Mister, won't you let me by?"

He was hard and course, but he looked at her in pity and said, "Yes, come on by."

She came up to a little girl and said, "Honey, won't you let me see if I can't get to Him just to touch Him?" The little girl stepped out of the way.

After a while she got as close as she could get—but that is as close as anybody has to get to Jesus, just as close as he can. She took her cane and put it in her other hand. I think I can see her as she trembled for just a moment and said, "I will see if I can reach Him." She reached over and just touched His garment with her fingertip and stood back sound and well! Do you suppose she ever forgot that touch? She is probably talking about it in Heaven tonight. She is no doubt telling the angels and the redeemed about it.

Get Close to Jesus

You can get closer to Jesus than to touch His garment. You can touch Him, Himself. Right in front of you tonight is a nail-pierced hand. If you want to you can reach up and get it. You can grip it and it will grip you. You can sing the song, "Where He leads me I will follow." You can say, "It may be over mountains and across plains, but I will go with Him all the way."

"Oh," you say, "Bob Jones, that sounds good." Well, buddy, it is better than it sounds! No poet who ever wrote music could tell you how wonderful it is.

"But," you say, "I can't understand it." You do not have to understand it. That is the beauty of it. When I came to Jesus Christ I did not know what the words *vicarious* and *substitutional* meant. I did not know theological terms. I was an eleven-year-old country boy. All I knew was that God loved me and Jesus died for me and wanted to save me. I got to Him, and ever since that time I have been studying the wonders and the glory and the explanation of it. I did not understand it then. You do not have to have much sense to be a Christian. (That ought to be a lot of comfort to some of you!) Did you ever stop to think that you do not have to have much in your head to be a Christian? You just have to have a willing heart. You do not have to understand how food is digested to eat food and get nourishment. You do not have to understand how medicine cures. All you need to do is to get the medicine. You do not have to understand everything in the Bible. I have a lot of things I am going to ask Jesus about when I get to Heaven. There are some things in the book of Revelation I have never quite understood. There are some things



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in the book of Daniel that I have never quite understood. There are some marvelous things all through the Bible about which I have wondered and prayed. But there is one thing that is as clear as the light of the clearest noonday, and that is the road to Heaven. That road is well marked. You do not have to miss it. There may be some mysteries connected with the road, but the road itself is clear and definite and you do not have to miss it. If you want to know how to go to Heaven—Jesus is the way. Do you want to know how to go to Heaven? If you do, come to Jesus and trust Him—that is all. Do you want to know how to be saved? Look to Jesus to save you—that is all.

Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed
for me,

And that Thou bidd'st me come to
Thee,

O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

Listen! I have never seen a man lost because of his inability to understand. You talk about "honest doubters." Jesus Christ settled that question forever. He said, "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God or whether I speak of myself."

Do you know what the trouble with you is? You are not willing to pay the price. It is not a popular thing to be a Christian. There never has been a time since Jesus Christ died on Calvary when it has been a popular thing to be a Christian. It is not a popular thing in Chicago. Oh, it may be popular to be a church member, but it is not popular and never has been popular to be a Christian.

Not Popular to Be a Christian

I remember when I started in the ministry a young man said, "Bob, are you going to be a preacher?"

I answered, "Yes."

"Are you going to preach the truth?" he asked.

I said, "If I know it."

He said, "You won't be popular."

I said, "What are the smiles of men worth? They will vanish like morning clouds and float away like bubbles on the stream."

How can
your church
advertise
best

What does it matter what the world thinks of you? What does it matter? You live today; tomorrow you die; the next day you are buried; the next day you are forgotten. Listen! Isn't a man a fool who would go back on God for the smiles of a world that would not miss him if he were dead?

Popularity! Somebody said to me about a certain man: "He hasn't an enemy on earth."

I said, "He is no good!"

You cannot move without producing friction, and you cannot stand for Jesus Christ without producing friction. The world was not against Jesus Christ because He was bad. The world was against Him because He was good and the world was bad. People tried to make Him bad and drag Him to the low level on which they lived. And when He was tried in

(Continued on page 9)

"The REVIVAL BOOK of the Hour!"

About the new book, *We Can Have Revival Now*, by Dr. John R. Rice, editor of THE SWORD OF THE LORD, President V. Raymond Edman of Wheaton College says:

"A trumpet blast of encouragement and challenge! The hour for revival in America has struck, and this is the revival book of the hour. For too long we have been hearing defeatists' voices declare that the final apostasy is upon us, and that the days of revival are gone forever. In clear, logical, earnest, Scriptural presentation of the truth Dr. Rice shows that the greatest revivals of all are still ahead of us, that the power of God has not diminished, and Divine methods to be used in mass revival. To read this challenge is to be alerted to the revival spirit of today!"

In a personal letter to Mrs. Marge McCall, assistant director of the Sword Book Club, Dr. Edman says:

"The books for this month are good, but Dr. John's *WE CAN HAVE REVIVAL NOW* is 'simply outstanding.' It is just the message the spirit of defeatism and discouragement. I have spent the weekend with Billy Graham at the opening of his campaign in Atlanta. What a thrilling sight to see more than 25,000 people at the ball park for that opening service!"



V. Raymond Edman
Ph.D., LL.D., president
of Wheaton College,
Wheaton, Illinois, author
of *The Light in
Dark Ages*, *The Disci-
plines of Life*, etc.
Distinguished member
of The Sword Book
Club panel of judges.

Other Outstanding Comments

H. H. SAVAGE pastor First Baptist Church, Pontiac, Michigan says: "I would like to say that the chapter, 'The Last Days a Blessed Age of Revival' in the new book 'We Can Have Revival Now,' is more than worth the price of the whole book. I consider it a very fine presentation of the unfailing purpose of the church since the day of Pentecost."

DR. HYMAN J. APPELMAN, famous Jewish evangelist says: "Finished your last book in one sitting yesterday. I am going through it again, and again. It is tremendous. God's heart is bared through your own in it. It is a classic in simplicity, yet profound in its range of subjects. I wept over it, prayed over it. It will mark a milestone in my Christian and preaching life. More power to you. I wish you were a teacher of evangelists."

DR. CHARLES KOLLER, president Northern Baptist Seminary, Chicago: "The copy of your recent book, 'We Can Have Revival Now,' was received with deep appreciation. It expresses my conviction that we can have revival now, and I am greatly pleased with your emphasis and the excellent way in which the chapters are set up. I am sharing the book with our teachers in Evangelism, and then it goes to our library for the benefit of our student family."

CHAPTER TITLES

1. Mass Evangelism and Defeatist Voices That Despair of Revival
2. Bible Foretells Greatest Revivals Yet to Come
3. False Teaching About the Last Days
4. "The Last Days," a Blessed Age of Revival
5. Great Revivals in Bible Times Prove We Can Have Revival Now
6. We Can Have Revival Now Because of God's Infinite Resources Freely Available for Soul Winning
7. Present-Day Wickedness, Apostasy and Modern Civilization Cannot Prevent Revival
8. The Revival Harvest Is Always Ripe Among Lost Sinners
9. We Can Have Revival Now Because We Already Have Increasing Revival
10. God's Way to Mass Revival

This is the newest book by Dr. John R. Rice, evangelist, and editor of THE SWORD OF THE LORD. These ten lectures were given at Bob Jones University, the first annual series of lectures on revival, then carefully rewritten and published by Bob Jones University and by THE SWORD OF THE LORD. The book is revolutionary. It marks an epoch.

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Following Jesus

(Continued from page 8)

court the judge said, "I can't find anything against Him."

Because they could not find anything against Him they put Him on a cross. The world is against everybody who lines up on the side of Jesus Christ.

I was talking to my banker, a fine Christian man, the other day. He said, "Dr. Bob, why is it that some people will curse a good Christian school like Bob Jones University and other Christian colleges? Why are people against them? The young people in them are decent, clean and fine. They do not drink and smoke and gamble and swear. Why on earth are people against Christian colleges?"

I said, "Brother, the Devil is not against a bank. The Devil is not against a grocery store. The Devil is not against a dry goods store. The Devil is against a Christian testimony. If you were to put a sign out in front of this bank which would say to this wicked world, 'This bank stands without apology for the blood of Jesus Christ. This bank stands without apology for salvation by grace through faith in the atoning blood of Jesus,' you would line up all the demons against your bank."

The moment you step over on the side of Jesus Christ, that moment you line up wicked men against you.

Popularity! Popularity!

I remember a woman in the South once said to me, "Mr. Jones, I have such a lovely daughter. She is very popular. I do not know why she is so popular." I did not tell her that I did not understand it either—I had already seen her!

The meeting we were in went on for a few days, and one day the mother of that very popular girl came to the front. She found God. After she found God she looked up to me and said, "I want you to help me save my daughter. I must get her converted." I could not resist the impulse; I said, "You have been ambitious for her worldly position. You have pushed her into society. You have pushed her so far that I am afraid we cannot reach her."

The campaign closed and the girl was left in her worldliness and frivolity without God. Two years later I lectured in a town near there. When I came from the stage in the opera house a girl with a prematurely old face—the kind of face that a girl should not have, a face that was tired and worldly and worn and unhappy—came down the aisle. She said to me, "Do you remember me?"

I said, "Why, yes, Miss Annie. How are you getting along?"

"Oh," she said, "Just the same."

"Are you still a sinner?"

"Yes, I suppose I am a hopeless case."

There are mothers in Chicago who would rather see their daughters popular in society than to see them have front seats in Heaven. The reason some folks do not walk with Jesus Christ is that they would rather travel with the crowd.

One day a woman said to me, "I would like to be a Christian, but if I were to come down the aisle of this tabernacle and take a stand and accept Jesus Christ, I would have to give up my crowd."

I said, "No, you wouldn't."

"Oh," she said, "I would."

I said, "No, you would not. If you were to walk down this aisle and take Jesus Christ as your Saviour and come out on His side without any apology, that godless, good-for-nothing, frivolous gang would give you up and save you the trouble." You do not have to give the world up; the world drops you when you step on Jesus' side. But I would rather be with Him who is not so fickle. I would rather walk alone with Him than to travel with the crowd to Hell!

Popularity! Popularity!

Fame Is Brief

I have seen in my lifetime the men whose names have been famous in my day. I remember when I was a boy we heard one day about William Jennings Bryan's capturing a convention. Not long ago I was in Washington and went out to the Arlington Cemetery where the dust of Bryan sleeps. The man at the cemetery told me that more people ask for Bryan's grave than any grave in the cemetery except the grave of the Unknown Soldier. I have seen Bryan still the thousands with his eloquence. I saw him in New York during the last Democratic Convention he ever attended. I sat in the gallery amid hissing, mocking hoodlums when they said, "The old man has reached the age of toothless senility." I saw him stand there and with eloquence I had rarely ever heard hush that crowd into silence and respect.

But William Jennings Bryan is dead and sleeps the sleep of death in a silent tomb. He used to stir

the hearts of millions. But how long has it been since you thought of him? When did you ever think of Bryan? He has been dead only a few years.

I could mention others. I could talk to you about William McKinley. I was in Ohio recently in his home city. I said to somebody, "How long has it been since you thought of McKinley?" I remember when he died. I was a country boy in Alabama. I remember how we unfurled the flag and how we wept to think a good president was dead. When did you think of him? He has been dead a little while, but when did you think of him?

Let's call the roll of others. There was Teddy Roosevelt, the "irresistible Teddy," the "Big-Stick Teddy," that man who shook a continent when he walked! But he is dead. He died from an infection and sleeps the sleep of death with other teeming millions who used to live, too. When did you ever think of him?

Think of Woodrow Wilson, who for a little while probably rose to higher heights of fame than any man in human history. For a little season the name of Woodrow Wilson stirred hope in the hearts of men as few names have ever stirred. I was in Washington recently and visited the cathedral. I said, "Oh, this is his tomb."

They said, "No, that is not his tomb. That is just a marker. He is buried in a secret place of the cathedral. He is not here; that is just a marker."

Wilson is dead. When did you think of him last?

I could call the roll of others. Think of Franklin Roosevelt, the man we said was indispensable; the man we said the world could not run without. He died. You can hear his voice now in memory saying, "My friends, . . ." He was the man who seemed unbeatable, and yet he is dead. You do not think of him very often now. In a few years you will not think of him at all.

Homer Rodeheaver told me the other day, "Bob, it is the strangest thing in the world; I can go into high schools in this country and ask the students in those schools, 'How many of you ever heard of Billy Sunday?' and scores and scores of them never ever heard of Billy Sunday, that man whose name in the religious world was a household word in this country."

Listen! People will not remember you until you get cold! If you died tonight, in thirty-six hours we would put you to bed with a shovel and cover you up with dirt and forget you. And yet some of you here tonight will turn your back on Jesus Christ for a world like that.

Do you know why you do not go with Him? You do not want to give up sin.

Now get this straight: giving up sin never saved anybody. Sins are simply limbs on the tree of sin. Sawing off limbs does not get rid of the tree of sin. Quitting a bad habit does not save a sinner. It is not what you give up that saves you; it is what you get when you take Jesus that saves you. It is not giving up something; it is getting something that saves people. Get that straight!

Christ Must Be First

But at the same time remember that you cannot have Jesus Christ as long as you have a sin you had rather have than to have Him. I am sick and tired of this superficial sort of Christianity we have in this country! If you want Jesus Christ, you must want Him more than you want anything or you will not have him!

You cannot have anything in preference to Him. "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." Your god is the thing that is first in your life. If you have something else that is first, you cannot have Jesus. You must put Him first. You will notice that the Scripture did not say, "You must not have a bad god." You must not have any god, not even a good god. If your church is first with you, you are a sinner. If your lodge is first with you, you are a sinner. If your wife is first, you are a sinner. If your baby is first, you are a sinner. The only man who is a

real saint is the man who puts Jesus first. JESUS FIRST!

Years ago when I was a young preacher I was holding a meeting in a town in the South. I was staying in a little hotel in the town. There was a lovely little girl about sixteen years old there. She had big black eyes. I never saw a girl her age with as much pep. She would blow in that house like a cyclone. She was all over the place, and she was irresistible in her magnetism and personality. I like folks like that. Deliver me from people who have nothing to them. I do have some respect for the prodigal son. He made a bad record, but he did make a record! I like folks who have something to them. I like to see folks like that saved.

That girl would come to the services. She did not care a thing about my preaching, but she liked to see me sweat. And she enjoyed the singer's pep. I used to watch her big, black eyes beam.

One night the Holy Ghost got hold of her. Oh, when He gets hold of people! I could see her as she began to cry. I just kept pouring it into her soul. When I finished I said to the people, "If you want to be saved, come to the front." She did not wait for anybody else; she led the procession. Down the aisles the people began to come after her. I went and sat down by her. She was crying the biggest tears, I think, I ever saw. I said, "Do you want to be saved?"

She said, "Mr. Jones, I—I don't see any harm in dancing."

I said, "I haven't said a word about dancing. You ought to trust Jesus."

She said, "But I don't see any harm in dancing."

I said, "Wait a minute. Who is talking about dancing? Why are you bringing up that subject?"

"Well, I don't see any harm in it," she said again.

"Well, what are you worrying about?" I said. "I am not talking to you about that. I want to know if you will trust Jesus."

"Well, I don't see any harm in dancing."

Do you know what was the matter with that girl? She had been to one or two little dances at the town hall. She had smelled the perfume of the flowers. She had heard the music go out over the air. She had had the thrill of the whirl, and that night Jesus looked at her and said, "Which, which—that or Me?"

She said, "I want you, Jesus; but I want that, too."

Jesus said, "Which—that or Me?"

She said, "I want—I want You, Jesus; but I want that."

Jesus said, "You will have to choose tonight. You must put one or the other first in your heart. Which is it?"

Does Anything Keep You from Jesus?

That is the issue in your case. Now, don't misunderstand me. Do not misquote me! I do not say that everybody who dances goes to Hell. I say—and I will meet you at the judgment seat of Christ on it—if the dance keeps you from Jesus Christ, the dance will send your soul to Hell. Anything that keeps a man from Christ will damn him, whatever it is. If it is a shop or a store, or gold or cards—or anything else that keeps you from Jesus Christ—it will damn you. If you want Jesus you must want Him more than you want anything else, or you cannot have Him.

Let me tell you another story quickly. Years ago in a meeting down South I said, "If anybody here wants to be saved, come up to the front. Jesus can save you." A great many people came, and down the aisle with the others there staggered the bumpiest old bum I think I ever saw. His hair was matted with dirt. His eyes were bloated and bloodshot. His clothes were ragged. His body was vermin-infested and dirty.

I am always happy to see an old bum saved, but I am so glad God saved me before I got to be a bum. And I am going to be honest with you: it was never easy for me to put my arm around a dirty person. I think there is a lot of good, old-time religion in

(Continued on page 10)

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Prayer

(Continued from page 3)

rise and the world redemption be launched. God cares not for the length of our prayers, or the number of our prayers, or the beauty of our prayers, or the place of our prayers, but it is the faith in them that tells—believing that prayer soars higher than the lark ever sang, plunges deeper than diving-bell ever sank, darts quicker than lightning ever flashed. Though we have used only the back of this weapon instead of the edge, what marvels have been wrought!

There is no such detective as prayer, for no one can hide away from it. It puts its hand on a man ten thousand miles away. It lights on a ship mid-ocean. The little child cannot understand the law of electricity, or how the telegraph operator by touching an instrument here may dart a message under the sea to another continent; nor can we with our small intellects understand how the touch of a Christian's prayer shall instantly strike a soul on the other side of the earth.

You take a ship and go to some other country, and get there at eleven o'clock in the morning. You cable New York and the message gets there at six o'clock in the same morning. In other words it seems to arrive five hours before it started.

Like that is prayer. God says, "Before they call I will hear." A boy running away from home may take the midnight train from the country village and reach the seaport in time to gain the ship that sails on the morrow, but a mother's prayer will be on the deck to meet him and in the hammock

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(Continued from page 1)

to live on a good farm. I am gone so much in the Lord's business that I cannot do it, but if I had time to have a farm and some cows and a saddle horse; if I had time to raise fruit and such things—how I would enjoy it! I can't do it; I am doing bigger things for Jesus in preaching the gospel; but I wish I had time for it.

This man made good. His farm brought forth plentifully. He had good crops, and that was to his credit. The man who has good crops does not have them by accident. Part of it is the mercy of God, but much of it is his own hard labor, by God's blessing.

This farmer made good. He did not expect the government to rob the taxpayer and give him a bonus for his work, more than his crops themselves naturally earned. He did not ask the government to pay him for plowing up wheat or cotton and killing pigs and robbing the world of the wealth of the soil and getting paid for it by a bunch of off-brand brain trusters.

He saved what he made, and it was right to do that.

The Bible teaches thrift. I do not believe that one should be covetous, but the Bible says, "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise," because the ant lays by what it has, instead of foolishly spending it. This man had never heard of that

before he swings into it.

There is a mightiness in prayer. The breath of Elijah's prayer blew all the clouds off the sky and it was dry weather. Prayer in Daniel's time walked the cave as a lion-tamer. It reached up and took the sun by its golden bit and stopped it. We have all yet to try the full power of prayer. If saved, we are all the captives of some earnest prayer. Would God that in desire for the rescue of souls, we might in prayer lay hold of the resources of the Lord Omnipotent.

(Excerpts from the book, *The Wisdom and Wit of T. DeWitt Talmage*, selected by May Talmage. Published by George H. Doran Co., New York.)

The Rich Fool

(Continued from page 1)

crazy New Deal idea of spending yourself to prosperity, of depending on the government, swatting the government and swatting the man who worked hard and saved, and making him support you.

How many men I have seen like this one, rich men or well-to-do farmers or stock men. I am thinking about some in the Panhandle of Texas where we had a blessed revival campaign and where I baptized about ninety, most of them ranchers and their families. So many of them were fine, upstanding men, men with weather-beaten faces, yet kindly and solid men. I liked them. And this man has my sympathy. He was an honorable, hard-working man, as far as we know; a man who had much to his credit. He made things and saved things.

He had money in the bank. He said, "What will I do? I can't put all my stuff in my barn. I will build a bigger barn." I think he had apples and potatoes in his cellar; he had cabbages in well-dug-out rows covered so the frost would not get them. I think he had more hams and bacon in his smokehouse. My, I think he had more canned goods in his cellar! He was well fixed.

He Had Sense Enough to Quit

That is not all: I think he is to be commended because he had sense enough to quit. I do not know that his mind was unduly on his money. He could have gone on working but he did not do it. He said, "No, I'm going to quit." He said to himself, "Take it easy, old fellow; eat drink and be merry. Thou hast much goods laid up for many years."

Often a man who works out-of-doors a lot gets to talking to himself. You remember David said, "Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name" (Psa. 103:1). He was talking to himself.

So this man said, "Now take it easy, old fellow. You've worked hard. You've been out in the summer's heat and the winter's cold; now take it easy. You have things

laid by. You have goods laid by for many years." Yet the Lord came that night and said to him, "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?" He called the man a fool.

But He Was A Fool Putting Material Things First

I want you to notice for a little bit why he was a fool.

This man was a fool, first, because he put material things before spiritual things. He put his belly before his soul. He put clothing for his body before the covering of the righteousness of Christ. He put the matter of a house over his head now as of more importance than a home in Heaven. He depended on money in the bank or hay and corn in the crib and in his hayloft as of more importance than treasure in Heaven. This is a man obsessed with the things of this world. It is good enough to thank God for good things which He gives: for food and drink and clothes and houses—that is the mercy of God. But how foolish of anybody to put those things first! The man is a fool who has never thought above his belly, above clothes for his back, food for his stomach, a new car to ride in, hardwood floors, tile baths and newly-papered walls. How foolish is anybody who has his mind set on these things!

Some time ago in Chicago I heard a Negro preacher preaching over the radio—God bless him! He said, "You can trusk Jesus Christ; you can trusk Him! You put your trusk in the landlord and then he puts you out of the apartment. You trusk your job, and then you gets fired! You trusk in your clothes and they gets raggedy. You puts your trusk in your friends and they leaves you. But Jesus Christ—He's all right!" And, bless God, that is so.

If you trust in the things of this world they will flee away. Your health will soon be gone. You can have a T-bone steak tonight, or a \$2.50 sirloin steak, but it will not matter by tomorrow night whether you had a big steak or a hamburger. When you come to die you will not care whether you have lived in a fine house or in just a summer cottage somewhere. Oh, how foolish when you put these fleeting things first! This man put material things first, and the man who does that is a fool!

Foolish to Presume on God's Mercy

This man was a fool, also, because he presumed on God's mercy. He said, "God has been good to me. I am good and strong." (I am satisfied he got out and said to the boys, "Feel of that muscle. I'll bet I can lift as much as any of you can right now.") I know how my dad was. I know how we strong, honest country men are.) I think he said to his boys, "I'm good for many a year yet." He did not know—maybe it was a cancer that took him. Maybe it was apoplexy. Maybe it was hardening of the arteries. Maybe it was heart trouble. I do not know. And you do not know either! What a fool any man is to presume that he will live another day.

Listen! I don't care how well you are. I do not care if the doctor sent you through the clinic and found nothing wrong with you. Any man who presumes that he will live tomorrow and does not get ready to die, does not get his sins forgiven, does not make sure that he has peace with God, does not make sure that his sins are under the blood and his heart has been made new—oh, the man who presumes and goes on unconverted and unforgiven and without a home in Heaven, what a fool he is! You are trifling away your days here and your eternity hereafter because you think you are all right. Oh, death comes! It comes to the well; it comes to the sick. It comes to the rich; it comes to the poor. It comes to the old; it comes to the young. Death comes! The man who presumes on this matter is a fool. Jesus Christ Himself being the witness, the man who neglects to get right with God is a fool.

Listen, man who hears me to-

day, if you go to your work, if you go to your office, if you hitch up your tractor tomorrow, if you go and milk the cows and separate the cream, if you do any job of yours before you get ready to meet God, you are a fool! You may die and go to Hell! Don't do it! Jesus said this man was a fool.

You may make your money and put it in the bank. You may stand high among your neighbors. They may say, "Well, old man So-and-So sure made the money, didn't he?" But one of these days they are going to stand by. All the ground you will have will be six feet by three. All the clothing you can have will be one suit—a shroud. All the flowers you will have will be a few stale ones that you cannot smell. Men will be putting you in the face with a shovel before long! You may go to church, but you may be rolled in feet first. I am telling you now, friend, if you neglect your poor soul and go on to make your money, go on with your pleasure, go on with your home duties, or go on with your school work before you get ready to meet God, the Bible says you are a fool! This man was rich, but he was a fool. This man was smart, but he was a fool. This man had plenty of money in the bank. He had plenty of groceries in his pantry; he had hams in his smokehouse; he had corn in his crib; he had hay in his hayloft. His farm was paid out. But he was a fool—a fool because he did not get right with God.

Then the Saviour Himself gave the application. He said, "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." Anybody who is not rich toward God, anybody who does not make sure that his sins are forgiven, is a fool. Oh, I ask you in Jesus name to make sure tonight! Turn to Jesus Christ while you can. Be saved while you can. You do not have much time. You have now, this moment. Oh, turn and be saved! God loves you; Jesus died for you. Won't you trust Him now?

My Decision for Christ

You have read the short radio sermon off "The Rich Fool." Perhaps you, too, are unsaved. Perhaps you, too, are honest, hard-working and respectable. Perhaps you are thrifty, and saving, and careful in the handling of your money and laying by for the future. If so I congratulate you. But oh, dear reader, have you played the fool in neglecting your eternal soul's welfare? Remember that to just such a moral, respectable, hard-working, decent citizen it was that God said, "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee." Don't be a fool by neglecting your salvation.

If you will honestly turn from sin and depend on Christ to save you, I beg you, sign the following decision form, then copy it on a letter and mail it to me at once. If you honestly repent, that is turn your heart from sin, and depend on Jesus Christ for forgiveness and salvation, the Lord will save you right now. Will you do it? In His name I beg you to decide, and sign and write today. Here is a suggested form.

Evangelist John R. Rice, Editor
THE SWORD OF THE LORD
Wheaton, Illinois

Dear Brother Rice:

I read your sermon on "The Rich Fool." I know that being a hard worker, being a good citizen, being moral and honest are not enough. I realize that I am a poor, unconverted, lost sinner. I don't want to be a spiritual fool. So here and now I turn my heart from my sins. I know I need God's mercy. I believe that Jesus died for me. I believe He is ready to save me. So here and now, this moment, with all my heart, I turn from my sin and trust Him. I will depend on Jesus Christ to forgive my sins and save my soul this very day. I write this as my profession of faith. I will claim the Lord openly and by His grace try to live for Him from this time forth.

Signed _____

Address _____

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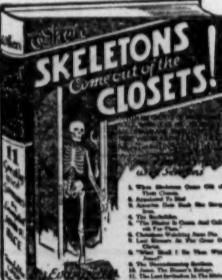
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Following Jesus

(Continued from page 10)

been born and he tried to kill Him when He was a baby. But that Baby grew up and one day challenged the Devil. I believe Jesus challenged the Devil; I do not believe the Devil deliberately faced him. I believe the Son of God challenged the Devil. He went into the ring and knocked him out three times. The Devil is not champion any more. Ever since he was knocked out by the Son of God, the Son of God is Champion! You do not have to fight the Devil alone. Nobody who is a Christian is alone. Every time I have to go He says, "I am right here with you; do not be uneasy. He is afraid of Me. Resist him. In My strength resist him!"

God never told you to run from the Devil. God said, "Flee youthful lusts." But God did not tell you to run from the Devil. God tells you to make the Devil run from you. He says, "Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you."

God Cares for His Children

I have thought about Daniel. The people said to him, "You will have to go back on God."

Daniel said, "Somehow I just don't think I can go back on God." They hid out to watch him, and when time for prayer came old Daniel did not bluster and boast. He just went and knelt with his face toward Jerusalem.

They said, "He is doing what he was told not to do. He did not take orders from the king. Get the lions hungry; we will get rough with him."

So they took old Daniel and threw him in a lion's den. Great big, shaggy, hungry lions came up and began to smell him. I can imagine that Daniel said, "Ain't you going to eat me?"

They said, "You know, we don't want any dinner today. We are really a little nauseated. We don't know what is the matter."

Daniel looked around and there was an angel. The angel said, "Daniel, wouldn't you like to take a nap?"

Daniel said, "Well, I am getting along in years. It is not easy for me to sleep out of my own bed. I have such a good pillow. It was made especially for me."

The angel said, "I will fix you the best pillow you ever had."

Then to one of the lions he said, "Come here, big boy. Come on over here and lie down and stretch out." Then to the rest of the lions he said, "Get on over yonder in the corner. Go on over there. Get on over there in the corner and lie down!" They all went over and lay down like babies in their mothers' laps. Then I think the angel said, "Daniel, come over here and put your head on the neck of this lion and go to sleep."

I imagine Daniel looked at him and said, "Would you mind moving him around just a little—just a little?"

The angel said, "Why do you want me to do that, Daniel?"

Daniel said, "I want to sleep with my face toward Jerusalem." And he lay his head down on the neck of the shaggy lion and went to sleep. As he slept he was fanned by zephyrs from the wings of angels and kissed by spirits from the world celestial. In his dreams he read his title clear to mansions in the sky.

If you go with Jesus you may have to go to a lion's den; but, bless God, you will not be alone.

Because the Hebrew children would not go back on God they were put in a fiery furnace. Suppose somebody told you you would be put in a fiery furnace. Suppose you had that test! You talk about Judas Iscariot's selling Jesus for thirty pieces of silver—there are church members in Chicago who have sold Him for less than that; and they were not even decent enough to hang themselves after they did it!

The Hebrew children said, "We'll have to go to the fire." And they were thrown into the fire. As they were thrown in God Almighty leaned over the battlements of Heaven and blew that fire down the throats of those who threw them in. When you

try to put a child of God in the fire, God will blow the fire down your own throat, too. A child of God is as dear to God as the apple of His eye. You had better not be tampering with the children of God.

The Hebrew children began to walk around in the furnace. One of them said, "This certainly is a lovely spring day, isn't it? I thought it was going to be hot today, didn't you? But it is the most beautiful spring day I have ever seen." Listen! Every furnace is a spring day when God's child walks through the fire with God!

Paul and Silas were in jail at midnight. Their feet were in stocks and their backs were lacerated. After a while Silas said, "Paul, are you asleep?"

Paul said, "No, Silas, I am not asleep."

"Paul, do you feel bad? Does your back hurt much? Is there anything I can do for you? May I rub your back a little?"

Paul said, "No, Silas; I was not thinking about that. I was thinking about the goodness of God. Wasn't it wonderful for Jesus to die for us? Isn't it wonderful to be down here in jail for Him? Silas, let's sing something."

Silas said, "All right. You raise the tune." And they sang. I do not know what they sang. It must have been some of the Psalms. I imagine that today it would have been

In the cross of Christ I glory,
Towering o'er the wrecks of time
All the light of sacred story
Gathers 'round its head sublime.
Or it might have been

Am I a soldier of the cross,
A follower of the Lamb?
And shall I fear to own His cause,
Or blush to speak His name?

But anybody can sing, even in a dungeon with feet in stocks and back lacerated, when God the Holy Ghost is there. And God the Holy Ghost is always there when the child of God is there.

Suffering for Jesus

My old father was shot through the right knee on the battlefield of Chickamauga. He was a Confederate soldier. I used to think he thought more of his crippled knee than he did of my mother or any child he had! He used to sit and talk to the soldiers who fought above the line and the soldiers who fought below the line. They would talk about their scars. I am not sorry for soldiers who get wounded. I am sorry for the boys who come home without any scars, because if every soldier enjoys his scars as my father did his, they miss a lot of fun when they do not get hit!

My father and his friends would sit and talk. One man would tell about losing a leg at one place and would get up and walk around on the old peg. Another man would shake an empty sleeve. My father could not wait to get his story in. After a while he would get up and show how the Yankees shot him. He would explain just how the bullet went through and how he wondered why it didn't cripple him for life. He would limp a little and show them how it happened.

We had a neighbor who, my father said, was the bravest soldier he ever saw in battle. He went through four years of the war and never got a scratch. I used to be so sorry for that man. All the other men would brag about getting hit and he would blush because he did not have any scars to show for the battles.

I think it would be embarrassing to go to Heaven and look at the brow of the Son of God, look at His hands when He lifted them up, get a little peek at His side; and then look all over my body and find no scars. Say! How many scars do you have because you have followed the Son of God?

When I was a boy an old country preacher told me a story. It has stayed with me. I have never forgotten it. He said that in a certain American city there was

a wicked, drunken infidel man with a drunken, infidel wife. They had a sweet little girl; and they swore she should never go to church, never hear the gospel and never see a Bible. The only time she ever heard the name of Jesus was when she heard it upon the profane lips of her family and the neighbors around her.

One day she went down the street on an errand and passed a mission door. She heard singing. She listened to the song. The music in her own heart responded, and she asked what the song meant. The mission worker told her the story of Jesus, took her inside the door and got her down on her knees. She trusted Jesus.

She went home so happy. Not knowing her mother and daddy knew the story she ran into the house and said, "Oh, Daddy; the most wonderful thing has happened to me!" She told him about being saved.

The father was drunk and he whipped her. Her little dress stained with blood, stuck to her wounded, bleeding back. That night the mother undressed her, bathed her, put a little oil on the scars and put her to bed. The next morning the little girl awoke up with a fever. A doctor was called. He said she had pneumonia. He kept coming to see her, and several days later he took the

mother and father to one side and told them there was no hope. They, one on either side of the bed, stood there and watched their little girl. They loved her. They were just poor, miserable sinners. The father was sober now, and the mother was sober.

The mother said, "Darling, do you want anything?"

The little girl said, "Mother, you remember the dress I had on when Daddy whipped me?"

"Yes, darling. I remember."

"Mother, h-h-has that dress been washed yet?"

The mother said, "No, darling, could I see that dress?"

The mother said, "Yes, I will go get it for you."

The mother went to the soiled clothes, took the little, bloody dress out and brought it in. The little girl took it in her hand and said, "Mother, may I have the scissors?"

The mother said, "Yes, darling. Mother will get you the scissors." She brought them to her. The little girl took the scissors in her hand and said, "Mother, you don't mind, do you? You don't mind if I cut out a little piece of this bloody cloth?"

The mother said, "No, darling;

but what do you want with it?"

She said, "Mother, I don't understand; but I think I am dying. You know I trusted Jesus and Daddy whipped me. But I can't help loving Jesus. I don't know much about it; but Mother, if you don't mind I'd like to take a little piece of this bloody cloth. I want to show it to Jesus and tell Jesus that while He bled for me I got to bleed a little for Him. May I, Mother?"

She clipped the little piece of bloody cloth and then died.

When I think of all He did for me and remember that I have no scars on my body I am ashamed. I have never been in jail for Him. I sometimes almost envy the martyrs that have had to die.

He is calling you Christians tonight to walk with Him. It may be that He is calling you to walk with Him through valleys, temptations, sorrows and trouble. He is calling some of you young people have wandered away from Him to come back to Him. And he is calling some of you who have never known Him to go with Him. Let's do it. What do you say?

(From the book, BOB JONES' REVIVAL SERMONS, published by Sword of the Lord Publishers. This book contains 9 messages by Dr. Bob Jones, Sr. 186 pages, \$2.00.)



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